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18 March 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate
Armed Services Committee

1. I called Ed Braswell and said I wanted to keep him informed on several matters. I told him the Director had wanted to meet with Chairman John Stennis and that a meeting had been scheduled but had to be cancelled. I said since the Director would be away all next week, he was going to call the Senator instead of waiting until his return. Braswell said he felt this would be best and added that the Senator would probably be leaving town tomorrow morning. I told Braswell the call had to do with the Budget Committees and noted that the Director has had sessions with Chairman John McClellan, Senate Appropriations Committee, and Senator Milton Young, on this subject. Braswell asked if we had any outstanding requests from the Budget Committees and I told him we did not but that we did have the request from Senator Alan Cranston. I said I had just talked to Doug Bennett, Staff Director, Senate Budget Committee, who said Senator Cranston wants Harold Gross, of the Committee staff, cleared on an interim basis. I said I told Bennett we don't want to do this on a unilateral request from Senator Cranston, but if he could tell me that Chairman Edmund Muskie wants it done, it would carry some weight with the Director although it might not convince him. Braswell said we shouldn't even do that. He said it should ride on the larger issue.

2. Braswell said from what he heard from Senator Stennis, the Rules Committee action doesn't look good. I said I thought they were going to try to get an extension of the reporting date and I told him we have a statement prepared to submit to the Committee, either by hearings or by letter.

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3. I said Jim Calloway, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, thought Chairman McClellan was going to weigh in also. Braswell said he was thinking of getting to Senator Howard Cannon and suggesting that he get some experts from Defense Department as witnesses. We then discussed the jurisdictional issue and Braswell said he had not heard any expressions of jealousy but said it is a power fight. I said one of the arguments we are making is exclusive jurisdiction. Braswell said Senator Stennis tried to retain jurisdiction under revised guidelines but could not get support.



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